REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the outstanding Official Action mailed August 20, 2002, the shortened statutory period for response having expired on November 20, 2002. In this regard, Applicant submits herewith a three-month extension petition to reset the deadline for responding to the official action to and including February 20, 2003. In view of the within remarks, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

The present application includes claims 1-38, of which clams 1, 11, 14, 20, 25 and 31 have been presented in independent form. Specifically, claims 1-13 are directed to an adjustable extension arm, claims 14-19 to a channel member, claims 20-24 to a forearm extension, claims 25-30 to a method of making a channel member, and claims 31-38 to a method of making an adjustable extension arm, all embodying the novel concepts of the present invention. As to all claims, the Examiner states that the claims are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over the prior art illustrated in FIGS. 1-7 of the present application (hereinafter "the prior art extension arm") in view of *Walker*, U.S. Patent No. 2,151,877. In view of the below remarks, the Examiner's rejection is considered traversed.

The Examiner's reference to *Walker* in rejecting the claims of this application suggests that the present invention is not fully appreciated by the Examiner. To this end, the prior art extension arm, e.g., assembled channel members and forearm extensions, were previously manufactured in predetermined stock sizes. It was therefore required to inventory a large number of pre-sized extension arms in order to accommodate sales of extension arms of different sizes.

Accordingly, a large inventory investment was required. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if an end user required an extension arm of a particular length different from that stocked, it was either unavailable, or more costly because an entirely new extension arm of the correct length would have to be manufactured. Additionally, if a manufacturer wished to provide extension arms of various lengths, it would be required to maintain a large inventory of several different length components at significant cost, as well as occupying significant storage space.

In accordance with the present invention, the extension arm and certain of its subcomponents such as the channel members are cut from a length of stock material to users' specified dimensions. One benefit of the present invention is that the manufacturer is required only to keep one stock length of components on hand, rather than maintain inventory of various length components. From these stock components, channel members and forearm extensions may then be cut and assembled into the required lengths for forming the extension arm as specified by the end user. The prior art cited by the Examiner fails to render obvious this feature of Applicant's claimed invention.

The Examiner states that the prior art extension arm discloses the basic features of an adjustable extension arm as claimed by Applicant. However, the Examiner recognizes that certain features of the claimed invention are not disclosed therein. It is precisely these missing features to which the presently claimed invention is directed. For example, in claims 1 and 11, there is provided first and second reinforcing members received within first and second channel members, respectively, and roller units coupled to the ends of the reinforcing members. In claim 11, the roller units include a

projecting member which is received within one end of a respective reinforcing member. In claim 14, the channel member, as in claim 1, includes a reinforcing member and roller units coupled to the ends of the reinforcing member. In claim 20, the forearm extension includes an elongated hollow body having ends to which there is attached a first and second coupling, respectively. In claim 25, the channel member is made by inserting a reinforcing member into the cavity formed by an elongated hollow member, and coupling the respective ends of the reinforcing member to a first and second roller unit. In claim 31, the adjustable extension arm is made by, *inter alia*, forming a first and second channel member by inserting a reinforcing member therein, and coupling respective roller units to the ends of the reinforcing members. The channel members are nested together for pivotable attachment to a first and second end cap.

In forming, for example, a channel member, it is only required that one stock an indefinite length of an elongated hollow member, an indefinite length of a reinforcing member, and a plurality of roller units. When a channel member of specific length is required, a piece of the hollow member and a piece of the reinforcing member may be cut to the desired length from the indefinite length stock pieces. The reinforcing member is subsequently inserted into the hollow portion of the hollow member, to which a pair of roller units are affixed at either end thereof. The result is the production of a channel member for use in making an extension arm of specified length without the disadvantages previously noted from the prior art extension arm.

To this end, the Examiner refers to *Walker* as purportedly disclosing these features. Specifically, the Examiner states that *Walker* discloses elongated channel members

(40, 41, 42, 43) being nested together to form a channel therebetween, with a reinforcing member having open ends (58), a wall and a bottom with two voids received within the first cavity, and first, second, third and fourth roller units used in order to adjust the length of the first and second channel members, the first and third rollers (46) received within a respective open end of one of the reinforcing members, and the second ends of the roller units having a cylindrical member used as a stop and the second fourth rollers (51) used to aid in this adjustment by reducing friction of the channels sliding together. The foregoing construction of *Walker* is irrelevant to Applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, contrary to the foregoing statement of the Examiner, there is no disclosure in *Walker* of Applicant's claimed invention.

Turning to *Walker*, the display apparatus is formed from a plurality of individual tubular sections (40, 41, 42, 43, 44) which are telescopically received in end-to-end relationship. That is, as shown in FIG. 1, each of the sections is cross-sectionally sized to be smaller than an adjacent section. Accordingly, section 44 is telescopically received within one end of section 43, which is telescopically received within one end of section 42, which is telescopically received within one end of section 41, which is telescopically received within one end of section 40. This allows the sections to telescopically expand outwardly as shown in FIG. 1, or telescopically collapse into a compact configuration as shown in FIG. 2. One end of the sections is formed with a rotationally mounted roller 45 sheathed in a roller body extension 46. The rollers support and facilitate sliding movement of a respective section in telescopic manner within an adjacent section, *see* FIG. 6. Applicant is at a loss as to what relevance, if any, the teachings of *Walker* have with respect to Applicant's claimed

invention. Further, any combination of *Walker* with the prior art extension arm shown in FIGS. 1-7 would not render obvious Applicant's claimed invention.

The Examiner has confused the telescopic adjustability of an extension arm in *Walker* with the components of Applicant's claimed extension arm which are not telescopically adjustable in length. For example, the first and second nested channel members of claim 1 are coupled at their ends to a pair of spaced-apart first and second end caps by means of the attached roller units. This arrangement is similar to that disclosed in FIG. 1 where the nested channels 200, 300 are pivotally coupled to the end caps 100, 500 via pins 550, *see also* FIG. 2. Applicant's nested channel members which are coupled to the end caps form a parallelogram arrangement. *See* paragraph [0007] of the specification. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to paragraphs [0004] through [0036] for a general description of the operation of the extension arm which is contrary to the telescopic extendability of the *Walker* extension arm. As such, the telescopic nature of the sections in *Walker* is not the same as nesting Applicant's claimed channel members to form a channel therebetween. Rather, the telescopic arrangement of the sections in *Walker* provides a channel extending therethrough, and not therebetween, as claimed by Applicant.

Furthermore, there is no reinforcing member disclosed in *Walker* being received within a channel member, to which roller units are coupled at either end of the reinforcing member. Here again, *Walker* merely discloses individual sections, *e.g.*, 43, 42, 41, 40, to which there is attached at one end a single roller 45. As such, the rollers in *Walker* are not coupled to any end caps as claimed by Applicant.

The prior art also fails to disclose the construction of Applicant's claimed forearm extension as set forth in claims 20-24. In this regard, there is no disclosure in the prior art of a forearm extension being constructed from three separate components, *i.e.*, an elongated hollow body, a first coupling which is attached to one end of the body, and a second coupling which is attached to another end of the body. Rather, the forearm extension shown in FIG. 2 of this application is formed from a single unitary member. Further, there is no disclosure in the prior art of the couplings having an end comprising a U-shaped member as set forth in claim 21. Further, there is no disclosure in the prior art wherein the couplings each include a stop member limiting the extent of engagement of the couplings within the ends of the body as set forth in claim 22. Still further, there is no disclosure in the prior art of the ends of the couplings including a void as set forth in claim 23, nor of a mass of aluminum material being adhered to an inner surface of the hollow body within the void as set forth in claim 24.

Similarly as to Applicant's claimed extension arm, there is no disclosure in the prior art of the features of a number of Applicant's in the prior art dependent claims. By way of example, there is no disclosure in the prior art of the roller units including a projecting member received within the reinforcing members as set forth in claim 3. There is no disclosure of the reinforcing members including top and bottom walls having aligned voids, wherein the projecting member includes a void in alignment therewith which receives a fastener as set forth in claim 4. There is no disclosure in the prior art of the fastener comprising a mass of aluminum material as set forth in claim 5, etc., etc. etc. Furthermore, for at least the above noted reasons there is no disclosure in the prior art of Applicant's claimed method as set forth in claims 25-38.

The clear deficiencies in *Walker* as a prior art reference stem from the fact that the display apparatus is nothing more than a plurality of sections which are telescopically connected to form a compact length as shown in FIG. 2 and to be longitudinally extended outwardly as shown in FIG. 1. This construction of a display arm is entirely contrary to the construction of Applicant's claimed invention and the prior art extension arm as shown in FIGS. 1-7 of the present application.

Therefore, there is no meaningful way of combining *Walker* with the prior art extension arm which would render obvious Applicant's claimed invention. The substitution of the *Walker* extension arm for the FIG. 1-7 extension arm would be just that, *i.e.*, replacing upper and lower channels 200, 300, and end caps 100, 500 with the telescopic extension arm in Walker. However, the principles of operation of these two display arms are entirely unrelated. As previously noted, *Walker* is based upon a telescopic assembly of a plurality of sections. On the other hand, the adjustable prior art extension arm is based upon a parallelogram adjustable assembly of nested channel members 200, 300 coupled to end caps. It is not possible to modify the FIG. 1-7 prior art extension arm in any manner as suggested by the Examiner, when taking in consideration *Walker*, to render obvious Applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, the Examiner's rejection of Applicant's claims is considered traversed and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has raised various objections to the drawings as not designating certain figures as "prior art." Applicant submits herewith under separate cover letter proposed drawing corrections with respect to this issue, as well as addressing a number of inconsistencies in certain figures.

Applicant will subsequently submit formal drawings under separate cover letter for entry in this application.

The Examiner states that the drawings should contain a full view of the assembled device in order for the invention to be understood. The Examiner makes reference to 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(b). In response, the Examiner apparently does not appreciate that the upper arm extension 250 shown in FIGS. 8A and 8B, and lower arm extension 350 as shown in FIG. 9A, 9B are alternate embodiments of the construction of the upper and lower channels 200, 300 as shown in FIG. 1. In this regard, as shown in FIG. 2, the upper and lower channels of the prior art extension arm are formed as a single unitary member as discussed, *supra*. The upper extension arm 250 and lower arm extension 350 of the present invention are constructed in the manner as disclosed and described with respect to FIGS. 8A, 8B and 9A and 9C. The resulting upper and lower arm extensions are nested together and coupled to end caps 100, 500 as shown in FIG. 1. Accordingly, the assembly of the upper and lower arm extensions of the present invention in a fully assembled extension arm would be as shown in FIG. 1. Accordingly, Applicant's drawings fully comply with any requirements for illustrating Applicant's claimed invention.

The Examiner also inquires as to certain reference numerals being the same with respect to the prior art extension arm and that disclosed in accordance with the present invention. As thus far explained, the upper and lower arm extensions 250, 350 of the present invention are alternate embodiments for the upper and lower channels 200, 300. Hence, Applicant has maintained like reference numerals for like elements for purposes of consistency. For example, element 205 refers to the same hole in roller 202 in both embodiments. This, in Applicant's opinion, helps to clarify a greater understanding of

the present invention and its incorporation into the assembled extension arm as shown in FIG. 1. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection is considered traversed and therefore should be withdrawn.

In considering Applicant's within response, Applicant designates the rejected dependent claims as being allowable by virtue of their ultimate dependency upon submittedly allowable independent claims. Although Applicant has not separately argued the patentability of each of the dependent claims, Applicant's failure to do so is not to be taken as an admission that the features of the dependent claims are not themselves separably patentable over the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Applicant submits herewith new claims 39-54 for consideration by the Examiner, which claims for the above reasons define over the cited prior art.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that she telephone Applicant's attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which she might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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